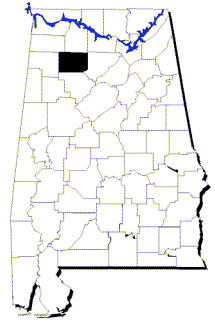


WINSTONCOUNTY

Honorable Samuel L. Masdon

Winston County Courthouse
P.O. Box 613
Haleyville, AL 35565
(205) 486-9554



Randy Brimer
Beth Romo
Mike Millican
Jerry Mobley
Chris Proctor
Aaron Brown
Connie Wiginton
Fran Stewart
Kyle Reogas

Clint Baggett
Danny Springer
Sue Reed
Lisa King
James Russell
Dale Hendrix
John Posey
Robert Matthews
Neal Cook

R.C. Tedder
Ed Townsend
Danny Schmidkofer
Roger Bedford
Joe Duncan
Monica Gardner
Ann Cole
Shane Snoddy
April Knight

Council Priorities

1. Establish an effective system for prevention and intervention for tobacco and substance abuse.

Identify all prevention and intervention programs in county. Encourage collaboration among

2. Establish transportation in Winston County for medical care

Coordinate and collaborate with existing agencies that offer transportation services. Conduct a poll on extent of need of transportation throughout the county. Secure funding for public transportation such as Kid-One.

3. Increase High School Graduation Exam passing percentage for students in Winston County.

Obtain funding for tutors to help students pass all areas of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. Obtain funding for more counselors that can be involved with at-risk students that may drop-out. Develop a community awareness campaign to inform parents and children of the value of a good education and how important attendance is.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Reduce the incidence of obesity in children aged 0-5 years

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage all child care providers to have height & weight assessments of children.

All children in Winston County will be prepared to succeed in school

Action Steps

- 1) Promote literacy programs at city libraries in the county.
- 2) Encourage parents to read to their children at home.
- 3) Request doctor's offices to have children's books and magazines in their waiting areas.

Promote high quality pre-school and child care programs

Action Steps

- 1) Distribute current list of licensed providers to county agencies.
- 2) CPC members will take part in special activities taking place in county pre-school/child care facilities.
- 3) News media will be encouraged to highlight and cover events from quality county providers.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Is there sufficient job opportunity and workforce ability for a local rural populace to become economically secure, such security being essential to the health and safety of families and children

Action Steps

- 1) Provide career awareness/education and goal setting activities to promote values and attitudes regarding future education and vocation.
- 2) Establish some form of "trade training."
- 3) Establish and support programs that promote educational and cultural awareness.
- 4) Establish a Family Resource Center where the foregoing programs can be carried out.
- 5) Employ an Executive Director of a Family Resource Center who can devote full time effort toward locating funds for such programs and seeing to their long-term viability.

To provide affordable county-wide transportation to work and services

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage grant funding & innovative solutions by individual agencies or private initiative.

To reduce the poverty level of Winston County families

Action Steps

- 1) Establish a resource directory that will inform parents and children of programs and resources that are available to meet their individual needs.
- 2) Encourage the development of a Family Resource Center.
- 3) Encourage industrial recruitment in rural areas.

Encourage more job training, job programs, and job placement for citizens in Winston County

Action Steps

- 1) Become more familiar with workforce initiative programs and promotes these programs to the community.
- 2) Obtain funding for a grant writer to assist in all areas.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Increase High School Graduation Exam passing percentage

Action Steps

- 1) Obtain funding for tutors to help students pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam.

Implement positive behavior management strategies

Action Steps

- 1) Acquire funding for an in-school suspension (ISS) facilitator for each campus.
- 2) Acquire funding for surveillance cameras in all schools.
- 3) Continue using the pride survey to identify areas of need.

Truancy prevention

Action Steps

- 1) Familiarize children and parents with the procedures of the early warning truancy prevention program.
- 2) Emphasize the value of a good education and the importance of attendance.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Establish an effective system for prevention and intervention for substance abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Identify all substance abuse prevention and intervention programs in our county.

Decreasing teen pregnancy

Action Steps

- 1) Increase collaborative effort among Health Department, DHR, Dept. of Mental Health, courts and school system to reduce teen pregnancy.
- 2) Encourage pregnancy prevention programs for grades 6-12, allowing professionals in the community to go into the school system to provide programs on abstinence and pregnancy prevention.
- 3) Classes on self esteem and alternative choices to be presented in county and city schools and churches.
- 4) Advocate parenting classes.

Provide each family in Winston County with the knowledge of all available child health programs for their needs

Action Steps

- 1) Provide information (health fairs and resource directory) on danger of drugs, alcohol, tobacco use, nutrition, hygiene, and immunizations.
- 2) Encourage collaboration among agencies such as school systems, churches, and other community resources.
- 3) Provide parenting classes with referrals from Health Department, DHR, schools, churches, civic clubs, and the public.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

To increase quality, proven parental training for families in Winston County

Action Steps

- 1) Expand the parent project with schools, juvenile court, mental health, and DHR.

The need for structured and supervised programs for children to include after school, summer, and school breaks

Action Steps

1) Identify existing enrichment programs or seek funding to establish such programs in each community in our county.

Increase parental involvement in schools

Action Steps

- 1) Provide community awareness programs.
- 2) Encourage parent attendance at parent-teacher conferences, and PTO organizations.
- 3) Seek public service announcements from local radio station encouraging parental involvement.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Increased drug use by teens

Action Steps

- 1) Increase surveillance of youth regarding drug use at home, school, and with friends.

Child abuse and neglect

Action Steps

- 1) DHR will meet with school officials on in-service days to provide training and answer questions.
- 2) DHR will screen all concerns and complaints received from the schools, and evaluate as preventive assessments.
- 3) DHR will periodically review ways to increase funds and improve in home services.

Sexual assault

Action Steps

- 1) Obtain Children's Justice Task Force Grant to allow as many child care officials as possible to attend the National Symposium on sexual abuse in Huntsville, Alabama.
- 2) DHR/JPO to work together to obtain more funding from the state and county to house juvenile offenders.
- 3) Maintain a close relationship with Children Advocacy Centers.

Policy Recommendations

- Develop a resource directory for the county.
- Promote Legislative concern regarding rural economic development.
- Advocate for social workers in all schools.
- Continue support, expand, & allocate funding for scientifically proven projects.
- Encourage partnership among agencies providing services and identify gap areas.
- Funding should be allocated for forensics narcotics evaluation to expedite trials.
- Increase state and federal funding for rural transportation.
- More regional residential programs for those committed to treatment.

Accomplishments

- Developing a comprehensive substance abuse system in Winston County made possible by receiving a Unified Prevention Systems Capacity Building Grant. Winston County is one of six recipients of the Alabama Unified Prevention Systems Grant. This grant will bring \$600,000 into Winston County over the next three years.
- The Winston County Children's Policy Council acquired 501 (c) 3